

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF AVERY

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Workshop on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Kenny Poteat, Chairman; Phyllis Forbes, Vice-Chair; Scott Heath; Martha Hicks; Glenn Johnson

Members Absent: None

Call To Order

Chairman Poteat called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Chairman Poteat led prayer.

Chairman Poteat stated that we are very fortunate in Avery County to be in the good financial shape we are in and a lot of this is due to this Board itself, good management and good employees.

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Robert Wiseman, County Manager, stated that he had individually talked to each Commissioner about the issues on the agenda. He said that there are two things to bring to the Board's attention that is not on the agenda and one of them is the Alzheimer's allocation which is \$1000.00. The County Manager stated that Martha Hicks had taken the initiative to investigate that and take the number of people that are served through Senior Citizens and it comes out to \$33.00 per person and she has requested another \$1000.00. He said the other issue is with the leaky roof at the local library that maintenance is unable to get a handle on and he felt that \$5000.00 would address these issues.

The County Manager stated there was a request from YMCA for \$50,000; \$25,000 for utilities and \$25,000 for scholarships and that is for people of Avery County that is unable to afford the YMCA services. He said that he had not received any negative input for the particular purpose of \$25,000 for YMCA for the scholarships.

Chairman Poteat stated that going with the numbers he has pondered goes slightly above the \$300,000. He said that Avery County has a fund balance of 20% and 1/10th of 1% would generate \$25,000 and that he was advocating 2/10th of 1% would come out of fund balance which would bring the fund balance down to 19.8%.

There was discussion about the YMCA; Board of Education; Toe River Health District; Mayland College; Fire Commission; Sheriff and the extra monies that would be divided.

The County Manager stated that he had met with his counterparts from Mitchell and Yancey Counties. He said that Mitchell County and Yancey County Managers stated that they were not in a position to allocate any more money than was allocated last year to Toe River Health District or Mayland Community College. The County Manager stated that this begs the question which comes up every year if we can't all participate equally then what do we do. Toe River Health District asked for an extra \$84,500 to avoid furloughs for all employees. Phyllis Forbes said she was on the Finance Committee for Toe River Health District and to maintain what was budgeted last year there would have to be furloughs of all employees. She said that if Avery County wanted to go with the extra \$84,500 that perhaps the Avery County employees would not have to endure the furloughs.

Scott Heath entered at 4:52 p.m.

Chairman Poteat recapped for Scott Heath what had happened in the meeting before he came in. He said that by consensus YMCA would receive \$25,000 to be used exclusively for Avery County scholarships. Glenn, Phyllis and Martha thought that the Board of Education should receive \$100,000. Chairman Poteat thought the BOE should receive \$125,000.

Scott Heath stated that he felt \$150,000 should be given to the BOE for capital needs because we spent a whole year telling the taxpayers of Avery County that we needed additional tax money to fund \$1,000,000 of capital needs in the school system.

There was considerable discussion between the Commissioners about the extra monies and how these monies would be divided.

The County Manager advised that the extra \$1000 for Alzheimer's Group and the \$5000 for the roof at the library could be taken out of the budget internally and would not be included in the extra \$300,000.

Chairman Poteat stated that the \$300,000 would be budgeted as follows:

YMCA would receive \$25,000 to be used exclusively for Avery County scholarships by consensus of the Board.

Fire Commission would receive \$115,000 to have full time personnel in each fire department and that the Fire Commission would leave the \$400,000 in debt reduction and this would not go in to contingency by consensus of the Board.

Board of Education would receive \$125,000 with \$100,000 going to capital and \$25,000 going to operational by a majority consensus.

Toe River Health District would receive \$12,500 by consensus of Glenn Johnson; Kenny Poteat and Phyllis Forbes.

Mayland Community College would receive \$12,500 by consensus of Glenn Johnson; Kenny Poteat; and Phyllis Forbes.

Avery County Sheriff’s Department would receive \$5000 by consensus of Kenny Poteat; Glenn Johnson; Phyllis Forbes; Martha Hicks.

Little League would receive \$5000 to be earmarked for debt reduction of the lighting system by consensus of the Board.

Scott Heath advised to reiterate this is money coming out of insurance reductions. Martha Hicks stated that we needed to let the taxpayers know that we didn’t know this was going to be extra money. Glenn Johnson said it needed to be communicated to the taxpayers that while other counties are advocating 10% cuts across the board that Avery County is in good shape because of good management and we do have a balanced budget without a tax increase or delving into the fund balance. Chairman Poteat stated that budget amendments throughout the year will be on an emergency basis only.

Tim Greene, Finance Officer, stated that the balanced budget will be presented to the Clerk to the Board and June 15th there will be a public hearing and at the conclusion of the public hearing the Board will adopt the Budget Ordinance and quote the tax rates.

Chairman Poteat thanked everyone for all of the hard work.

Adjourn
Motion by Glenn Johnson and second by Scott Heath to adjourn this meeting at 6:47 p.m.
Motion unanimously approved.

Kenny Poteat, Chairman
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk